

California Adds Spice To Fashion

Ask anyone you know to "describe" California — even sight unseen — and words like bright, colorful, different, glamorous and exciting — all come to the fore.

Take each of these words and add a dozen other synonyms and you have the many fascinating adjectives that delineate the California fashion picture.

Foremost there is color — lots of it. Brightness is applied in ribbons and rick-rack for example, on natural grounds of rustic fabrics. Shapes are long and lean or full and bouncy. The effect is young and casual. Less inhibited are skirt ruffles and full tiers, flouncy or balloon sleeves on blouses. It is still the "BB" influence, it is saucy and neat rather than an overt effort at coyness. For a sissy touch there are ruffled, tucked shirts.

Some of the talk — about points in early sportswear groups are return of the Italian theme in color and spirit; coffee house character of completely easy, but colorful look and more and more separates within each theme.

California offers more variety in pants, always slimmed but in new mid-lengths. There are all kinds of beach and patio dresses and skirts, from shifts to muu muus. Hot dazzling colors first seen in resort and early spring sportswear will continue boldly for late spring and summer. Rich colors are reflected especially in sweaters, especially in mohair. And, the same bright attitude toward color shows off in the coat showings, with deep pinks, toast tones, white, off-white, some absinthe and pernod as well as many lilacs blossoming forth for Easter. Deep, but lightweight coatings in a flaring, swinging shape make a bold showing in these bright colors.

In the Swim

California's swim suit story is one of "three bares"—it's told in two-piece suits with bare midriffs, in deep plunging V's front and back, and in the extra-leggy look of abbreviated maillots.

Fabrics are colorful and extremely lightweight, florals are in bloom, stripes are bold and a blaze of hue; very-new stretch fabrics with fabulous control and minimum weight, frothy lastex and knits; strapless, camisole and scooped necklines are all highlights in the swimsuit collections.

Very Californian, too, are companion jackets and skirts for swim suits, especially for the bikini crowd.

Scarves Add Colorful Bold Look

Unfurled and rising high on new spring costumes are silk scarves in the boldest and most colorful emblem patterns.

Designs are revamped for modern wear but reflect the revival of interest in King Arthur's court.

Knock-out colors are combined in bold, irregular stripes, dot or flowerlike heraldics.

Collarless jackets, and dresses emphasize the need for a scarf accent. Cowl circlelets, boy scout ties, triangles, and sashes are touches for a bare neckline.

High on the list is a melange of colors boldly brushed on for spring. Lime, royal blue, powder blue and teal are combined for a real color splash.

Dots and dots in colored beads on white ground are fashioned on silk scarves. Polka dots, a spring favorite, are given lift by irregular shape and placement and come in the traditional small dots to larger coin sizes.

So show your colors smartly with exciting scarf accents.

Earrings

Earrings, too, follow the style-steps of necklaces . . . but where they detour is in the shaping. Though buttons and small dangles are still "always good," the newness is in earrings that follow the curve of the ear or appear as shapes of flowers or leaves or abstracts.

An ornament in the hair will become as necessary as earrings, for both day and night. There are combs, chopsticks, tiaras, clip and hairpins . . . all elaborately designed and jeweled.

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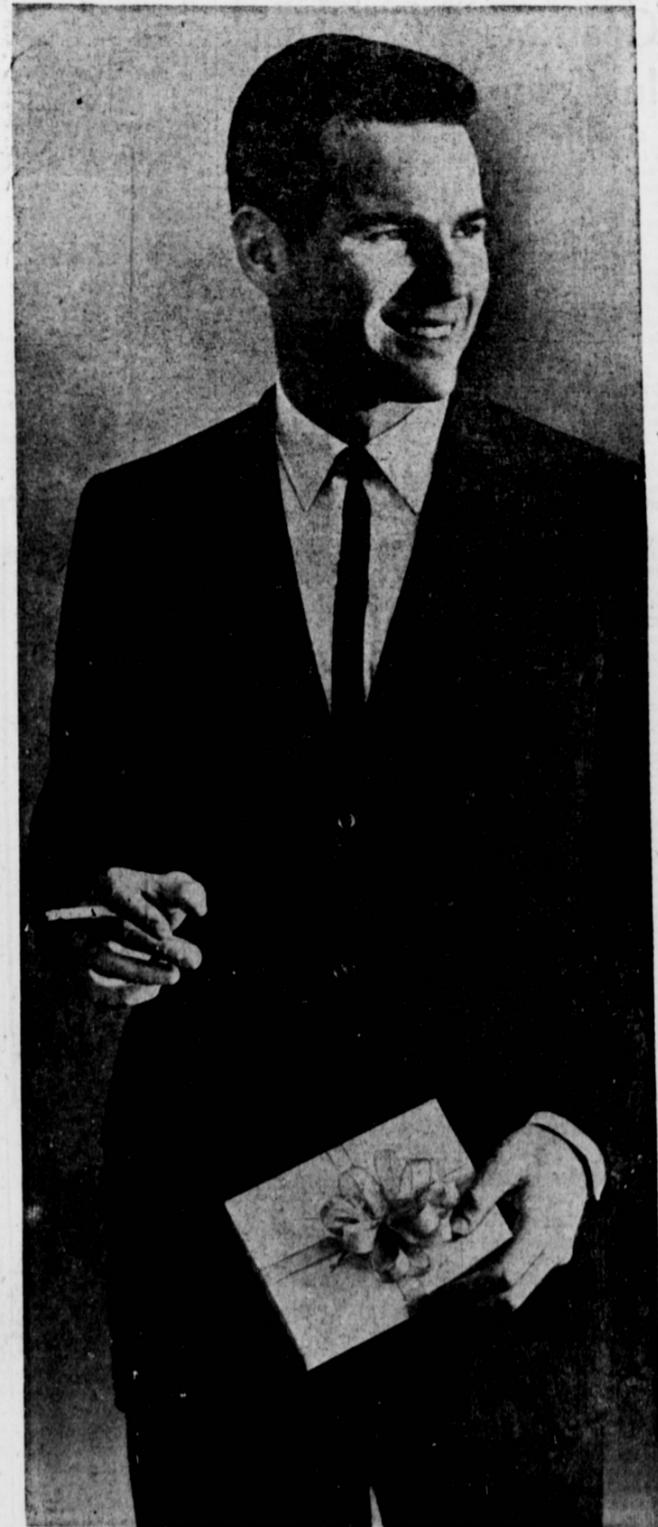
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